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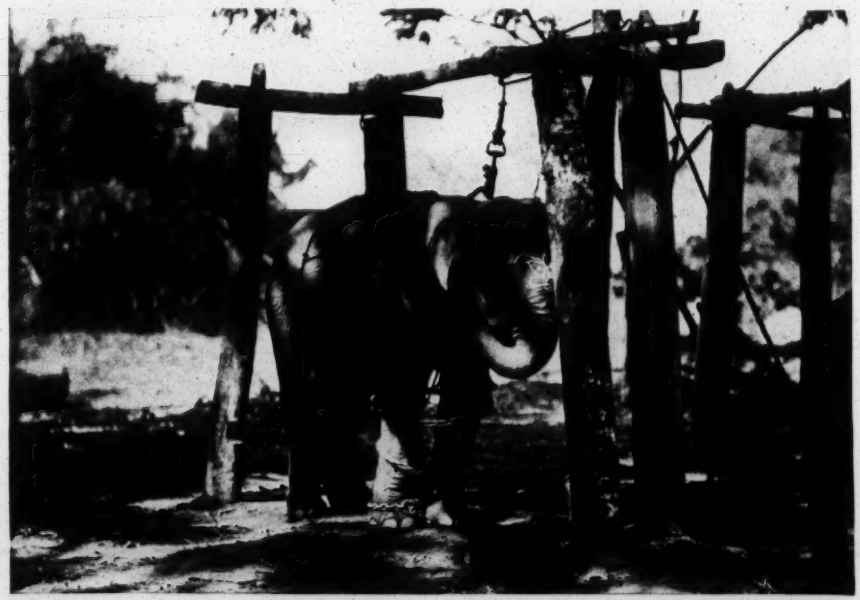
NOTE TO TEACHERS—Because of the Christmas and the New Year's holidays, the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS will not be published during the next two weeks. The BULLETINS will be resumed Monday, January 8, 1940.



Photograph by Gordon Alexander

FOR ELEPHANT SERVANTS, THE WAY TO MAKE THEM IS TO BREAK THEM

Siam's new title, Thailand, or Land of the Free, does not apply to elephants; for wild herds are rounded up every year and sturdy young animals captured to be tamed into slavery for man's service. Tame elephants in pairs jostle a wild one into position to be trussed up into heavy cagelike stocks, where he is roped and chained until docile enough to be taught his new duties. He most probably takes up a career in lumbering, for his strength is invaluable in Thailand's lumber camps (Bulletin No. 4).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Christmas Holly Has Private Life, Too

SO you're going to decorate with holly in honor of Christmas.

Will you use green holly, yellow holly, gray holly, green striped with white, or green spotted with gold? Will you choose holly with berries of black, white, yellow, orange, or plain old-fashioned red? Do you prefer prickly leaves, smooth-edged leaves, crinkly leaves, or streamlined half-inch ovals? You can pick your pattern from more than 300 hollylike species of *Ilex* plants which nature has devised in generous variation on the popular Christmas theme.

There have been times when the red berries at Christmas have been forbidden fruit. In the 6th century, holly came under an Archbishop's ban, when the Council of Braga branded all Christmas greenery as pagan devilment. In 1644, England's Puritan Parliament passed a law against Christmas celebrations, and England's most festive greens went on the contraband list along with other such heathenish items as mince pie and plum pudding.

Holly Resumes Public Appearances After Ban

The pious reformers prohibited holly because of the company it had kept. They recalled that pagan Romans once planted holly trees beside their thresholds to ward off lightning. They suspected that holly made its first appearance at Christmas festivities as a holdover from the Romans' riotous frolics of the pre-Christmas week, the Saturnalia carnival. North of the Romans, pagan Germans included holly among the evergreens they brought into their houses at the winter solstice to shelter forest spirits left homeless by leafless trees. To the west, the Druids revered the evergreen holly, which flaunted its red and green in the teeth of winter winds that stripped the sacred oaks.

Eventually the hardy, colorful tree lived down its pagan past, and was even allowed to join other green decorations of churches at Christmas. The 15th century Holly Carol musically advised all hearers to let "Holly stond in the halle, fayre to behold." Shakespeare singled out "Heigh ho! the green holly" as one reason why "this life is most jolly." At a high peak of respectability, in England's Gloucester region until a century ago a holly branch was accepted as a substitute for the Bible on which oaths were sworn. But it is at Yuletide that holly makes its most distinguished public appearances.

No Native Holly in Western United States

In Europe, where the red berries clustered in glossy green leaves came to be a trademark of Christmas cheer, there is only one native type of holly, the *Ilex aquifolium* or "needle-leaf" species, with numerous sharp spearlets around the leaf. In the United States, the *Ilex* family, to which holly belongs, has numerous native members, including dahoon holly, yaupon or swamp holly, possumhaw, and winterberry. Wild hollies are harvested for Christmas decorations chiefly in Delaware, Maryland, and the Chesapeake Bay region south to the Carolinas. No true holly grows wild in the western United States; yet the most spectacular holly boughs known to the Christmas trade are shipped from Oregon and Washington, where plantations of the European variety are cultivated on holly ranches.

Holiday decorations foster the idea that holly, like Christmas, comes but once a year. In landscape gardening, however, holly trees hold their own the year around. Gardeners tend imported species of Chinese horned holly, Japanese littleleaf holly with black berries, weeping holly, coral holly, hedgehog holly, laurel

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Photograph by Henry R. O'Brien

WATER IS THE HORSEPOWER THAT TURNS THE SIAMESE FARMER'S WHEEL

The trees along the river bank in northern Thailand (Siam) are put to work for the farmer as a water wheel. Each paddle in the wheel offers resistance to the current of the water, so that the river turns the wheel. After the paddles have been built into the structure, bamboo cups are attached to the rim, to dip up water with each revolution of the wheel. The cups fill small irrigation canals, to water gardens during the dry winter season when the river level has dropped too low to reach the canals (Bulletin No. 4).

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Poland, Now "Somewhere in France"

THE refugee Polish government, recently set up at Angers in northwest France, is a thousand miles—as the bomber flies—west of its former seat at Warsaw. Situated near the junction of the Loire and Maine rivers, this city is nearly 400 miles west of the Franco-German frontier.

With a recorded history which antedates that of Warsaw by some six centuries, Angers is one of France's traditional show places. Its 13th-century castle, built on a foundation of solid rock, is a massive example of architecture from the days when a feudal lord's home was his fortress.

Venerable Castle Towers Still Stand

The seventeen original towers of the Angers stronghold still stand guard along their great connecting wall. On all but the side facing the river they surround a group of later buildings, including a 15th-century chapel now used as an arsenal. The castle's old moat, hewn from rock and now partly filled in to make a modern boulevard, was 100 feet wide and 36 feet deep.

Although many of Angers' historic houses have given way to new business structures and widened streets, a few quaint wooden buildings of the Middle Ages remain. Such is the "House of Adam," with overhanging galleries and elaborately carved woodwork. Especially interesting to student and historian is the 12th-century Gothic cathedral of St. Maurice, with its slender spires and pointed arches.

Among the city's other lures to visitors are exhibits in the Museum of Industrial Art and the Museum of Religious Art—the latter formerly the Bishop's palace. It contains a collection of old tapestries, including some of the famous Apocalypse designs.

As early as the 3rd century, Angers was the seat of a bishopric. To the Romans this town was known as Juliomagus. Later it became the capital of the province of Anjou, ruled by such powerful historic figures as Robert the Strong and Fulk the Black.

Once Ruled by English

At one time, Angers, along with the rest of Anjou, came under the English crown, as a result of the marriage of Matilda of England to one of the descendants of the House of Anjou. Like other leading medieval cities, Angers knew periodic disaster through war and siege, fires and plagues. Invaded by the Norsemen in the 9th century, it suffered severely from English attacks in the 15th century, the religious wars of the 16th century, and at the hands of the French Royalists after the Revolution.

Today the capital of the French Department of Maine-et-Loire, which replaces the old province of Anjou, Angers is a thriving town of some 85,000 inhabitants. One aid to its prosperity is the location near-by of extensive slate quarries. Other important industries include the manufacture of such varied products as shoes and umbrellas, machines and thread, woolen goods, rope, and sail cloth. Fruit liqueur, especially that made from blackheart cherries grown in the vicinity, is a popular Angers commodity in world markets.

While the celebrated 14th century university of Angers was discontinued after the French Revolution, this provincial capital has a number of important educational institutions: a preparatory school of medicine, a university with free instruction in theology, law, science, and literature; a school of agriculture; and a school

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holly with flowers fragrant as plum blossoms, and yellow winterberry. Holly trees open their delicate greenish-white blooms in May or June.

In addition to their career in the decoration field, the hollies have entered the business world as the close-grained ivory-white wood used to decorate furniture with inlay. It also masquerades as ebony, dyed black for small wooden knobs and handles. White holly is used for parts of musical instruments, for wood blocks in types of engraving, for wooden rollers in printing certain kinds of textiles.

The American Indians had a special use for holly. They "drank" it. Yaupon was the North American branch of the *Ilex* family which southeastern Indians brewed into the "black drink" passed around to the braves on ceremonial occasions, such as the first steps along the warpath. The Spanish explorer Menendez de Aviles, coming to Georgia in 1566, was hard put to pacify a tribe fresh from the black drink ceremony.

Possibly the most important commercial demand for any of the holly's *Ilex* cousins today has arisen from the South American Indian's fondness for *yerba maté*, the Paraguay tea which Spanish settlers learned to make and enjoy (illustration, below). *Maté* comes from Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil.

Note: References to several members of the holly family are found in "Rambling Around the Roof of Eastern America," *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1936; "The Golden Isles of Guale," May, 1934; "Life on the Argentine Pampa," October, 1933; "The Beauties of the Severn Valley," also "River-Encircled Paraguay," April, 1933; and "Washington, the Evergreen State," February, 1933.

See also the description and color pictures of holly in *The Book of Wild Flowers*, published by the National Geographic Society. Descriptions and prices of this and other Nature books published by The Society will be sent upon request.

Bulletin No. 1, December 18, 1939.

Photograph from Harriet Chalmers Adams

HOLLY'S SOUTHERN COUSIN DOES "INTERIOR DECORATING," TOO—AS A DRINK

Whenever this South American member of the *Ilex* family appears—daily—fanciers declare a holiday to enjoy it, for it is the *yerba maté*, or Paraguay tea. It differs from the decorative North American and European hollies in that its evergreen, toothy leaves are six or eight inches long, and its berries purplish to the verge of black. Indians collect branches of the wild *maté* shrub, pound the leaves with big curved wooden paddles, then dry them on racks (left) over slow fires. The dry smoked leaves are later ground into small green particles, which recover their fresh leafy fragrance when boiling water later converts them into a hot green drink.

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German Minorities Scattered Around the World

ROMANIA reports that some 10,000 German-speaking inhabitants of the Romanian region of the Dobruja have decided there is no place like home—in Germany. They have expressed their intention to join the widespread migration of German minorities elsewhere back to the Reich.

Romania has one of the more remote of Europe's islands of German settlement, which exist in practically every country on the continent between Spain and the Balkans.

If, by German, one means German-speaking, of German parentage or near-descent, the world's total population under this classification would be roughly between 90,000,000 and 100,000,000 people.

A Dozen European Countries Have German Minorities

The political boundaries of Europe within the past two years have been extended around such settlements in Czecho-Slovakia, Lithuania, and Poland. These extensions of boundary have taken in also groups of neighbors who are almost entirely non-Germanic. The Reich claims blood kinship with additional so-called German minorities of France, Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy, Latvia, Denmark, Lithuania, Estonia, Belgium, the Crimean Soviet Republic, and the Ukrainian Soviet Republic.

German-speaking inhabitants of these lands are estimated anywhere from a million and a half in France to about 16,000 in Estonia. In Hungary, some six per cent of the population is Germanic. Italy, on the other hand, has a proportion of less than one per cent.

Certain European nations are either 100 per cent German-speaking (such as Liechtenstein and Luxembourg) or hold a large Germanic majority, like Switzerland, where some three-fourths of the people speak German.

Germans Predominate in Foreign Stock of U. S.

Yet the inhabitants of these countries, developing outside Germany, have evolved a culture and tradition of their own, different from that of their racial cousins. Such, for example, is the German group settled along the middle Volga River of Soviet Russia, and comprising more than half the population of the autonomous Volga-German republic. Another, nearer to the Reich, is the independent little principality of Liechtenstein, which is so well satisfied with its ruler and the country's present economic ties with Switzerland that early this year some 95 per cent of its 2,600 voters went on record against any economic union with Germany.

Of foreign stock in the United States, the Germans are by far the predominant element, accounting for more than 17 per cent of the total foreign population. There are over six and a half million people of German extraction in the United States, including those born in Germany and those of German parentage on one or both sides.

New York State leads the Union in the number of German-stock inhabitants, with more than a million. Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin have over half a million each; while Pennsylvania has less than a half million, about 473,500.

Pennsylvania, however, contains more German stock than all of Uncle Sam's northern neighbor, Canada.

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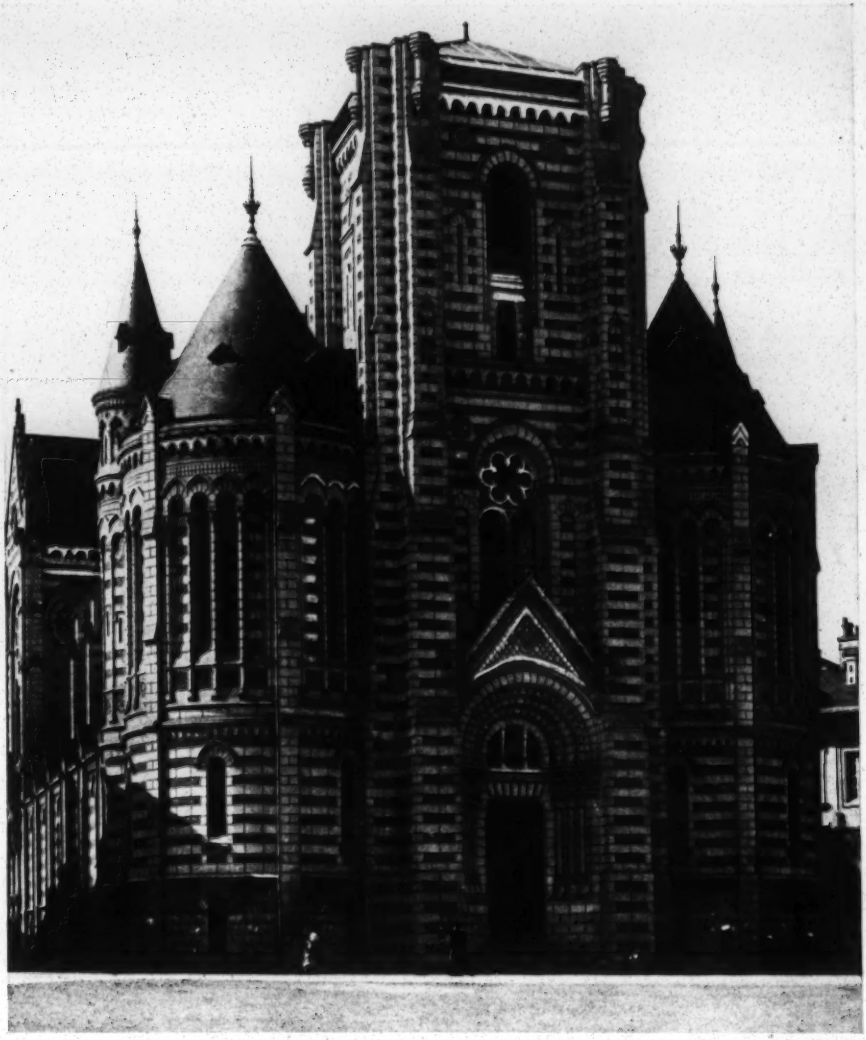
of fine arts. In its former military college, some of England's famous sons received instruction, including the Duke of Wellington.

Note: Photographs and brief references to Angers will be found in "Chateau Land—France's Pageant on the Loire," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1930; "Through the Back Doors of France," July, 1923; and "The Beauties of France," November, 1915.

Bulletin No. 2, December 18, 1939.



Photograph by Crété

"BLACK ANGERS," NO LONGER BLACK, IS NOTED FOR ITS ARCHITECTURE

Medieval houses and chateaux once gave an ominous meaning of dark streets and dungeons to the city's title, "Black Angers." New buildings and suburbs have made it a cheerful town, and the old structures which survive now draw visitors and admiration. The alternating light and dark stone gives a gay checkerboard effect to the Church of Notre Dame, but the stout round towers flanking the door have a grim resemblance to the fortified feudal castle of the Dukes of Anjou. Henry III rode forth from the castle to become King of Poland in 1573. Descendants of the dukes also occupied the thrones of Naples, Provence, and England.

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New Airline for Thailand, Old Siam

THE first foreign country's name to appear on Japanese airline schedules will be Thailand, which is merely the familiar old Siam in modern dress.

Regular plane service between Japan and Bangkok, Thailand's capital city, has been announced for next February. Those who wonder why Japan should start an airline to Thailand, instead of to larger and busier countries, have been reminded that Thailand is one of the few native monarchies surviving in the Far East where Japan's use of airports would not have to be authorized by a European power.

Siam's adoption of Thailand as its official title last May brought to the fore another pair of Siamese twins—the nation's pair of names. The Siamese have long called their country Muang Thai, "the Land of the Thai race." But the name Siam, or "Sayam," has also been on record for more than a thousand years.

"Horsepower" Formerly Supplied by Elephants, Buffaloes, Bullocks

For centuries Siam has been a symbol for the rich pageantry and leisured tempo of the Orient. More than 80 per cent of the Siamese are farmers. About two per cent are engaged in industry. Commerce is mostly in the hands of the Chinese and Japanese, with other foreign merchants. The Japanese population is less than 600, mostly located in Bangkok, the only large city. The area of Siam is 200,000 square miles, almost as large as New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois combined. The population is 15,000,000, including many Chinese.

Nearly a million acres are devoted to rice, with lesser acreage in para rubber, coconuts, tobacco, cotton, and pepper. The rubber plantations in southern Siam export more than $10,000,000 in rubber and rubber waste annually. Northern Siam is covered with forests, where much teak wood is cut by British interests.

The value of teak exported is in excess of $4,000,000. This industry uses many of Siam's 10,000 elephants, employed in dragging the dry logs to the river, and showing an uncanny instinct for selecting the right logs to loosen river jams (illustration, cover). Farm power is supplied mostly by the more than a million bullocks and buffaloes. Water power to irrigate the fields comes from water wheels (illustration, inside cover).

Siam's New Regime Develops Industry

Siam adopted a constitutional government June 24, 1932. The change from an absolute monarchy has been attributed in part to Western ideas acquired by princes of the blood royal and sons of prominent families sent to the United States and other countries for their education. The new king has been at school in Switzerland. The president of the new council was a classmate of General Goering in Germany. The new minister of foreign affairs was educated in France.

Men between 18 and 30 are now liable to serve two years with the colors. The navy has been more than doubled in strength, and high-speed bombing planes were purchased in the United States. Latest available figures indicate that a quarter of the national budget was marked for defense, about $50,000,000.

The government has also increased public utilities service, in addition to private plants. New factories have been set up, some by the government. These produce paper, cotton cloth, petroleum, sugar, hemp, silks, vegetable oils, and drugs. Mines produce tin and other metals which altogether raise the export figure to more than $75,000,000 a year, with imports into Siam amounting to $50,000,000.

Rail transportation now covers 2,037 miles of government-owned railroads, with reduced freight and passenger rates. Mail service has been extended to 481

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In Latin America, where the Swastika competed for front-line trade position against the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack, there are roughly one million people of German blood. Of these, the largest group is in Brazil, with between six and seven hundred thousand, including recent refugees from the Reich.

Few Germans in Former Colonies

Germany's former colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific are relatively unimportant as centers of German population. All together, they contain less than 50,000 Germans.

There are still to be found, however, many "islands" of Germans, like those of other national groups, scattered around the world. Among the international settlements in China, for instance, Germany had a share, according to figures before the present conflict, of nearly 2,000 nationals in Shanghai, some 300 out of 780 foreigners in Tsingtao, and 108 out of 294 in now devastated Nanking.

Note: German place names which have followed German emigrants to the world's four corners can be found on The Society's Map of the World, which is available at 50c (paper) and 75c (linen).

Bulletin No. 3, December 18, 1939.

Photograph from Harriet Chalmers Adams

LITTLE GERMANY IN THE ANDES HAS BIG GERMANY'S STEEPLES

In southern Chile, where native architecture leans toward the thatched-hut style, colonies of Germans have created towns with Europe's peaked roofs and gables. The house on the right even has a small steeple, a miniature version of those on the church. This town with the German architectural accent has the Spanish name of Puerto Varas. Across Lake Llanquihue, Chile's Andean backbone rises into the perfect cone of Mount Osorno.

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Spain Is Wooed for Mineral Merchandise

WHILE Spain remains on the sidelines of Europe's present war, she watches the dangerous game with interest. Already England has appointed a commercial mission to Spain, to obtain supplies of the important minerals which make Britain always a regular customer, but an especially eager buyer during wartime.

Normally, nearly 50 per cent of all mercury produced in the world comes from Almadén, about 125 miles southwest of Madrid.

Because mercury is the only common metal remaining liquid under ordinary temperatures, it is an industrial product that has few substitutes. It is useful in drug and chemical trades, in the recovery of gold and silver, and in the manufacture of high explosives. Possession in almost unlimited quantities of this raw material is therefore a trading asset of no mean consideration to Spain—in war or peace.

Mines Brought Ancient Invasions

Besides mercury, Spain is also a treasure vault for many other minerals, some with a long and bloody history. More than 2,000 years ago, silver mines of Iberia (as Spain was then called) regularly employed 40,000 men.

It was the lure of precious metals then that drew explorers and foreign generals to Spanish shores. Spain, rich in silver and gold, was to the ancients what Peru and Mexico in the New World later became to the Conquistadores. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, and Romans, in turn, swarmed to this peninsula, stripping it of fortunes in metal. One of the more dramatic scenes of history was that triumphal procession in Rome when Scipio, home from victorious campaigns on the Iberian Peninsula, paraded the streets with chariots heaped with silver from ravaged Spain.

Today, when modern chemical magic turns nature's gifts into products of heavy industry, armament, transportation facilities, and a multitude of manufactured objects for everyday use, the baser metals have become more precious than the "precious" ones. And Spain has an assortment of ores that makes her a first-class modern economic prize.

Foreign Owners for Copper, Iron, Lead, Zinc, and Silver Mines

These deposits were of strategic importance during the recent civil war in Spain. The loss of Oviedo in northwest Spain, with its extensive iron and coal fields, was a heavy blow to the Loyalists, as was the loss of the famous Rio Tinto copper mine in Huelva in the southwest.

More than 20 of Spain's 50 provinces contain copper, lead, zinc, iron, coal, and potash. There are the lead mines of Gerona, on the French border in the far northeast, with their important by-product of fluorspar, used in making steel. Lignite coal, lead, and potash deposits are found next door in Barcelona. Farther south, Murcia is rich in zinc, lead, and sulphur. Its neighbor, Jaén, also contains much lead and some iron. In Granada are quantities of iron and some lead.

The treasure chest of them all, of course, is the Almadén district, in Ciudad Real province, with nearly half of the world's supply of mercury.

Foreign investments in Spanish mining have been largely British, French, or Belgian. More than half of all copper mined in this country before the revolution was from the British-owned operations in the Huelva district of the southwest. About a third of the total was exploited by Spanish capital, the rest coming under French domination. In the same order may be listed the ownership of iron operations.

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post offices, and there is also air mail service. Highways total 2,722 miles. New docks have been built to provide Bangkok, the capital, with a suitable port for ocean steamers which previously anchored outside the delta of the Me Nam River.

The new administration has completed extensive irrigation schemes, established fish hatcheries, and is conducting experimental work in hemp, fruits, tobacco, rice, and cotton cultivation. In addition to the provincial agricultural colleges, a central agricultural college will be established.

Note: Additional pictures and references about Siam will be found in "'Land of the Free' in Asia," *National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1934; and "By Seaplane to Six Continents," September, 1928. Descriptions and photographs of animal life in Siam are contained in "Nature's Most Amazing Mammal" (Elephant), June, 1934; and "Warfare of the Jungle Folk," February, 1928.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Bangkok, Siam's New Capital, Awaits a New Monarch," March 25, 1935.

Bulletin No. 4, December 18, 1939.

Drawn by A. E. Holdstock

BRITISH, FRENCH, NETHERLANDS COLONIES HEM IN SIAM'S "LAND OF THE FREE"

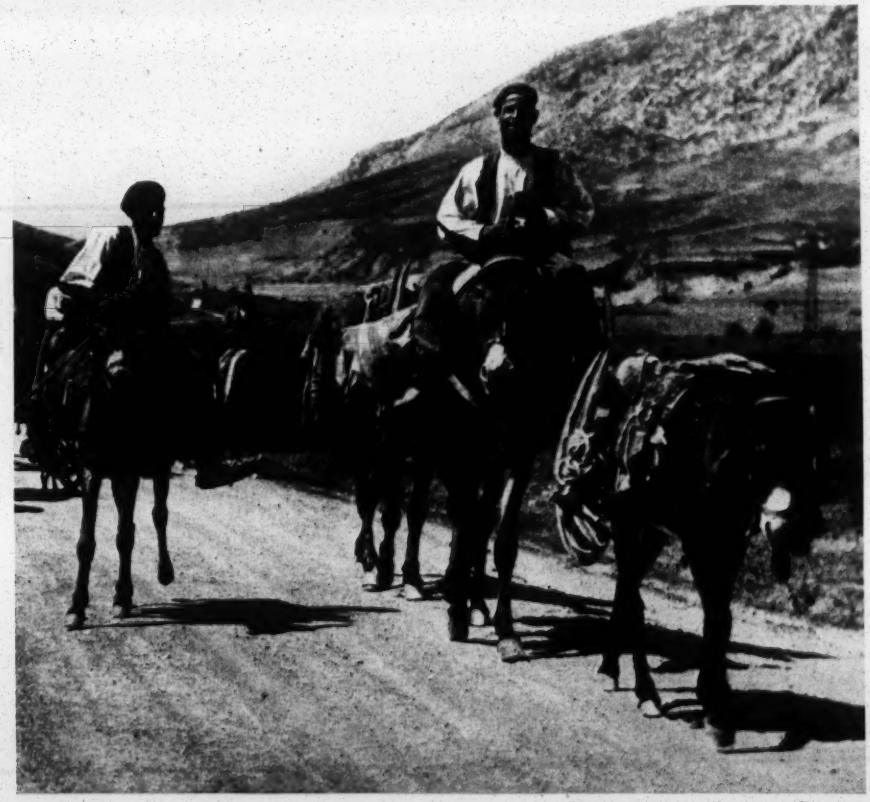
Muang Thai, the name which Siamese use for their country, means "Land of the Free." The Land of Thai (pronounced "tie") is the last independent nation in a region of Asiatic colonies of European powers.

Lead, on the other hand, with two-thirds of production under foreign control, was mainly a French affair, although German, British, and Belgian interests held a portion of the field.

Nearly all of Spain's silver and zinc output in recent years was mined by French companies, while nine-tenths of the country's extensive potash wealth was under the control of Belgian capital.

Note: Additional references to Spain's mineral resources can be found in "Turbulent Spain," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1936; "Palette from Spain," March, 1936; "Pursuing Spanish Bypaths Northwest of Madrid," January, 1931; "On the Bypaths of Spain," March, 1929; and "From Granada to Gibraltar," August, 1924.

Bulletin No. 5, December 18, 1939.



Photograph by H. Armstrong Roberts

THE MINER IS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN SPAIN

Farming is the country's most important source of wealth, but the miner turns Spain's underground mineral wealth into the second largest asset. These prospectors seeking new mines in the Pyrenees ride their pack mules over the same passes through which Caesar and Pompey led their armies on an earlier quest for lucky strikes. The prospectors' berets, loose vests, and thong-tied sandals distinguish them as Spanish, but the miner's pack of blankets and ropes and picks is virtually the same the world over.

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